

BRIGHTLINGSEA
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT
of
The Medical Officer of Health
for 1937.



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PRINTED BY E. DRAPER & CO., SYDNEY STREET.

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Brightlingsea Urban District Council.

Chairman : Mr. H. C. ORTON.

Vice-Chairman : Mr. I. C. OSBORN.

Members of the Public Health Committee.

Chairman : Mr. I. C. OSBORN.

Mr. J. FRANCIS

Mr. H. WARREN

Mr. H. C. ORTON

Mr. A. REEVES

Public Health Officers of the Brightlingsea Urban District :

Medical Officer of Health—J. Ramsbottom, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., who is also Assistant County Medical Officer and Medical Officer of Health to the Tendring R.D.C.

Sanitary Inspector—(Whole time officer) J. C. Hicks, M.S.I.A., who acts also as Surveyor, Meat and Food Inspector, and Officer under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

Junior Clerk to the Surveyor—Mr. H. W. Woolvet.

Water Works Manager—I. S. Priest (whole time Officer).

Town Hall,
Brightlingsea,
June, 1938,

To the

Chairman and Members of the Brightlingsea Urban District Council.
Sir and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report for 1937.

I am pleased to report that the health of your District has again been good and the vital statistics compare very favourably with those of the County as a whole.

It is interesting to note that the incidence of Scarlet Fever which caused some anxiety during the latter part of 1937 is only 2.13 per 1,000 persons as compared with 2.42 for the Country.

I beg to thank the Council for their assistance, and also wish to express my appreciation of the work and support of the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. J. C. Hicks.

I remain gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. RAMSBOTTOM.

Section A. Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area 2,873 acres (exclusive of Water)

Population 1931 Census	...	...	...	4,145
Population R.G. Estimate 1936	...	...	...	4,222
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Books	...	...	...	1,465
Rateable value	...	...	...	£19,271
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	£69/0/0

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

There is no change in the social conditions as described in the Annual Report of 1934.

EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Birth		Total	Male	Female
Live Births—Legitimate	...	51	21	30
Illegitimate	...	3	1	2
Total Live Births	...	54	22	32

Birth Rate, 12.8

Still Births (legitimate)	...	0	0	0
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Rate per 1,000 Total Births, Nil

Deaths	...	Death Rate 15.2	...	64	32	32
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The above figure of 15.2 represents the Crude Death Rate for Brightlingsea. In order to make this comparable with the contemporaneous crude death rate for the country as a whole it is necessary to multiply this figure by the comparability factor of .66 as supplied by the Registrar General. This gives a corrected local death rate of 10.0 which is comparable with the crude death rate for the county as a whole.

Deaths from diseases and accidents of Pregnancy and Child Birth.

Cause	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 live and still births
Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	Nil
Other Puerperal Causes	Nil	Nil

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :

	Total	Legitimate	Illegitimate
Actual number of deaths	1	1	Nil
Death Rate of all infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	18.5
Death Rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	...	...	19.6
Death Rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	...	...	Nil

Infantile Death Rate. 18.5

The single infantile death was that of a female child 3 months old who died of pneumonia.

DEATHS FROM MEASLES, WHOOPING COUGH, DIARRHOEA (under 2) AND CANCER.

Deaths from Meales (all ages)	...	...	...	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Cancer	...	...	...	11

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS, CANCER and INFLUENZA AND THE DEATH RATE PER 1,000 DURING 1937.

Disease					Deaths	Death Rate
Tuberculosis	{	Pulmonary ... 4			5	1.18
		Non-Pulmonary 1				
Cancer	...	...	...	...	11	2.6
Influenza	...	...	...	...	6	1.4
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	2	.47
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	7	1.6

CAUSES OF AND AGES AT TIME OF DEATH.

Disease	Male	Female	Total	Under 1 year	1—2 years	2—5 years	5—15 years	15—25 years	25—35 years	35—45 years	45—55 years	55—65 years	65—75 years	75 and over	Totals
Meales	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Diphtheria	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Influenza	3	3	6	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	...	2	...	6
Tuberculosis of															
Respiratory System	4	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	2	...	...	4
Tuberculosis, other forms	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Syphills	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Cancer	5	6	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	3	3	...	11
Diabetis	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	1	2	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	3
Heart Disease	8	6	14	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	3	3	7	...	14
Pneumonia	3	4	7	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	2	...	7
Aneurism	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Digestive Diseases	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Acute & Chronic Nephritis	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Senility	...	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3
Violence other than Suicide	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	2
Other Defined Diseases	2	2	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	...	4
Ill Defined Diseases	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Total	32	32	64	1	...	...	3	...	...	3	3	15	16	23	64

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

Comparative Statistics. Brightlingsea U.D., the average of 148 of the smaller towns of England and Wales and the Country as a whole. The figures represent the number per 1,000 of the population.

	Brightlingsea	148 Smaller Towns	England & Wales
Birth Rate	12.8	15.3	14.9
Death Rate	10.0	11.9	12.4
Infantile Death Rate	18.5	55.0	58.0
NOTIFICATIONS.			
Scarlet Fever	2.13	2.42	2.33
Diphtheria	.71	1.38	1.49
Enteric Fever	Nil	.04	.05
Erysipilas	Nil	.84	.37
Pneumonia	1.9	1.20	1.36
Puerperal Fever*	Nil	} 11.52	} 13.93
Puerperal Pyrenne*	Nil		

*per 1000 births.

Section B.

General Provision of Health Services.

Public Health Officers—see beginning of the report

(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

All bacteriological examinations, etc. are carried out through the County Scheme at the County Laboratory, 91 Queen Victoria Street, London, E C 4. The number of specimens examined during 1937 are as follows :

Nature of Specimen					Number examined
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	1
Sputa	...	...	...	...	1
General	...	...	...	...	2
Total					4

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The Urban District has joined the Essex County Council's Comprehensive Scheme which provides an adequate service for this area.

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME.

General. This is provided by the Local District Nursing Association which is affiliated with the Essex County Nursing Association and is subsidised by the County Council. The arrangement is very satisfactory.

Infectious Disease. No arrangement is in force and there is no necessity up to the present time.

(d) CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

These are provided by the County Council, a combined clinic being held at the New Church School, on each alternate Wednesday afternoon.

(e) HOSPITALS.

The Urban District Authority have no hospital. Infectious Diseases requiring hospital treatment go to the Colchester Borough Infectious Hospital the two Authorities having an agreement.

Section C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Including the Report of the Sanitary Inspector
Water.

There have been no new sources of water supply since 1933. The deep bores give an ample supply of water. Both the chemical and bacteriological examinations prove to be satisfactory. The following are the most recent bacteriological reports.

	Gravel Source	Deep Well Chalk Source	Lower Park Rd. Bore (Chalk)
Growth on Agar in 1 day. at 37 C.C.	0	1	0
Bacillus Coli in 50 C.C.	Absent	Absent	Absent

The Council have decided to have both a chemical and bacteriological examination every 3 months under the County Scheme.

Drainage and Sewerage.

During 1937 the following extensions have been made to the existing sewers:

Chapel Road extension 309 lineal yards of 9 in. pipe.
Seaview Road 130 lineal yards of 9 in. pipe.

Rivers and Streams.

There are none in the accepted sense. All reasonable precautions are taken to prevent pollution of tidal waters.

Closet Accommodation.

There has been three conversions from E.C.'s to W.C.'s during the year.

Below is given the approximate number of each type in the district

Privies	...	...	...	...	0
Earth Closets	...	...	...	...	59

Public Cleansing.

There has been no change made in the Scavenging arrangements.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

(iv) Shops.

See Sanitary Inspector's Report

(v) Smoke Abatement.

See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

(vi) Swimming Pools and Bath.

The Urban District has an Open Air Swimming Bath with an area of 2 500 square yards and a capacity of 550,000 gallons.

The Council have installed a 12 in pumping plant at the cost of £420 which makes it possible to replenish the water in the pool at each tide. Previously the water was let in and out by means of sluices which had the disadvantage of depending upon the state of the tides.

(vii) Eradication of Bed Bugs.

(1) Number of infested houses.

a	Council Houses	...	Nil
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b	Other Houses	...	Nil
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	Number Disinfected	...	Nil
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(2) A liquid insecticide would be used.

(3) The Urban District have no council houses.

(4) The work would be carried out by the Local Authority.

(5) Education of tenants would be by personal instructions at the time of inspection.

Schools.

The Sanitary Conveniences were periodically inspected.

The question of converting the trough type of closets which are at present in use at both the National and Methodist Schools into single W.C.'s is under consideration.

Town Hall,
Brightlingsea.

To the Medical Officer of Health of the Brightlingsea Urban District Council
Sir,

ANNUAL REPORT, 1937.

I beg to submit, in pursuance of Article 19 (15) of the Sanitary Officers Order, 1926, details of work carried out during the year 1937.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS.

	No.	No. of inspections.
Houses	44	91 including revisits
Other Premises	9	10 " "
Dairies and Milkshops	14	56 " "
Cowsheds	9	36 " "
Bakehouses	6	24 " "
Slaughterhouses	4	59 " "
Houses disinfected	13	
Complaints received and dealt with	15	
Informal Notices served	38	
STATUTORY NOTICES SERVED :		
Housing Act	Nil	
Public Health Act	5	
Informal Notices under P.H. Meat Regulations ..	Nil	
Informal Notices, Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act 1919	Nil	

During Rat Week the Council assisted the owners in the Destruction of Rats. All Farm premises were visited twice and baits laid.

DEFECTS REMEDIED,

Roofs	14
Floors	8
Walls and Ceiling Plaster	12
Sash Cords to Windows	32
Windows made to open	8
Damp Walls	19
Structural	10
Eavesgutters	5
Wash Boiler	6
Cooking Ranges	17
Additional Water Closets	4
W.C. Pedestals repaired and renewed	3
W.C. flushing apparatus repaired or renewed	2
Urinals Cleansed	1

New Baths fitted (existing houses)...	...	4
Earthenware sinks fitted	...	5
Choked Drains	...	5
Drains repaired or relaid	...	3
Inspection Chambers provided	...	3
Inspection Chambers repaired	...	1
Ventilating pipes repaired or renewed	...	4
Fresh-air Inlet repaired or renewed	...	2
Additional Gullies provided	...	6
Accumulations removed	...	2
Smoke abatement	...	1
Overcrowding	...	0
Water Service to existing houses	...	2
New dustbins provided	...	23
Yard Paving	...	3

SCHOOLS.

The Sanitary Conveniences were periodically inspected and found to be in order.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODS.

(a) Milk Supply.

Periodical visits are made.

In one case I had to call attention for Limewashing which was carried out.

One dealer Lincensed in Pasteurised Milk (Special Designations Order, 1923).

(b) Meat.

The class of cattle slaughtered in the district is very good and every effort is made for inspection at the time of slaughter. The amount slaughtered in the district is small in comparison to the population, but this is accounted for by three of the larger premises one of which gets its meat from the Head Butchery Department, Colchester and the other two from agents of Smithfield Market.

(c) Other Foods.

Nothing of an unusual character came to my notice during the year.

(d) Bakehouses.

Visits are made periodically to ensure cleanliness.

HOUSING.

Number of New Houses erected during the year

(i) By Local Authority	...	...	Nil
(ii) By Other Local Authority	...	...	Nil
(iii) By other bodies or persons	...	...	19
		Total	19

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Premises	Inspection	Number of written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories	13	Nil	Nil
Workshops	17	Nil	Nil
Workplaces	2	Nil	Nil

Total 32

Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars	Found	Number of defects Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Prosecutions
Want of Cleanliness	2	2	Nil	Nil
Other Nuisances	0	0	Nil	Nil
Total	2	2		

Yours faithfully,

JOSEPH C. HICKS,

Sanitary Inspector.

Section D.

Housing.

During 1937 19 houses have been erected by private enterprise. There are approximately 57 houses empty in the town. Below are given in tabular form the housing statistics

1.—Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year :—

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... 53
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 53
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925. ... 44
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 44
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 1
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. ... 38

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices :—

- Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers (included 12 carried forward from last year) ... 37

3. Action under Statutory powers during the Year :—

(a.)—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs. ... Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners ... Nil

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil

(b)—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... 5

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners ... 5

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil

(c)—Proceedings under section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. ... 1

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... Nil

(d)—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... Nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit... Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding :—

(a).—(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... 4

(ii) Number of families dwelling therein ... 4

(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ... 33

(b) - Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year... Nil

(c).—(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... Nil

(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases. ... Nil

Section E.

Inspection of Food.

Milk Supply.

Visits of inspection were paid to the Cowsheds and Dairies. The sanitary conditions were satisfactory. For particulars of inspections etc., see Sanitary Inspectors Report in Section C.

Meat and Bakehouses.

See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Shell Fish (~~Mulluxan~~).

In accordance with the Public Health (cleansing of Shell-fish) Act 1932 all Oysters taken from the layings in Brightlingsea Creek are passed through the Oyster Purification Tanks before being placed on the market.

During 1937; 3,758,662 oysters were marketed from Brightlingsea after cleasing. For particulars of the process see 1936 Annual Report.

Below is given in tabular form particulars with respect to inspection of animals slaughtered for food in Brightlingsea.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	...	...	...	...	...
Number Inspected	45	not kept separate	3	73	31
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole Carcases condemned	...	...	...	...	...
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	...	...	...	...
Percent age of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis only					
Whole Carcases condemned	...	...	...	...	...
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	...	...	...	...
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...

Section F.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and Other Diseases.

The undermentioned cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year 1937.

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	9
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	3
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	8

These numbers give an incidence per 1,000 of the population of 2.13, .71, 1.9 respectively.

Scarlet Fever.

Scarlet Fever was prevalent from September to December. Of the 9 cases that occurred 3 were sent to hospital. The disease was of a very mild type.

Diphtheria.

Two cases occurred in March and April, these were mild in character, and the infection was traced to contact with one in Ilford. The third case occurred in December this was a virulent type the child dying in hospital. All the cases of diphtheria were treated in hospital.

Influenza.

During the latter half of January and the first week of February influenza of a virulent type was prevalent in Brightlingsea. Between January 13th and February 8th six deaths occurred from this disease alone.

Hospital Treatment.

Where possible cases are isolated in their own homes. If this is not advisable they are sent to the Colchester Borough Isolation Hospital, the Council having an Agreement with that Authority.

Tuberculosis.

Below is given in tabular form the number of new cases and the deaths from Tuberculosis during 1935.

Age Periods	New cases				Deaths			
			Non.				Non.	
	Respiratory		Respiratory		Respiratory		Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 . .	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
5 . .	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
15 . .	...	...	2	2	...	...	...	...
25 . .	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35 . .	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
45 . .	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
55 . .	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
65 and upwards	2	..	...	1	2	...	1	...
<hr/>								
	5	1	4	4	4	...	1	...
<hr/>								
Total	6		8		4		1	

No cases of non-notified tuberculous deaths occurred during 1937



